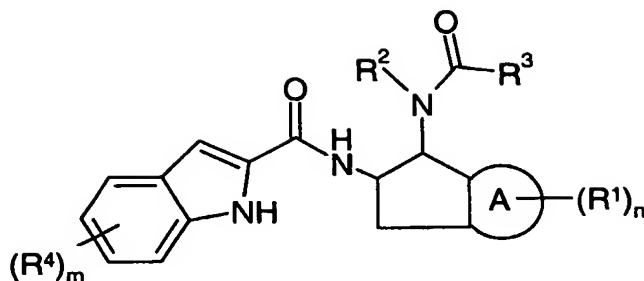


Claims

1. A compound of formula (1):



(1)

5

A is phenylene or heteroarylene;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

R¹ is independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, carbamoyl,

10 *N*-(1-4C)alkylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-((1-4C)alkyl)₂carbamoyl, sulphamoyl, *N*-(1-4C)alkylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-((1-4C)alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, -S(O)_b(1-4C)alkyl (wherein b is 0, 1, or 2), -OS(O)₂(1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkyl, (2-4C)alkenyl, (2-4C)alkynyl, (1-4C)alkoxy, (1-4C)alkanoyl, (1-4C)alkanoyloxy, hydroxy(1-4C)alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy and -NHSO₂(1-4C)alkyl;

15 or, when n is 2, the two R¹ groups, together with the carbon atoms of A to which they are attached, may form a 4 to 7 membered saturated ring, optionally containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N, and optionally being substituted by one or two methyl groups;

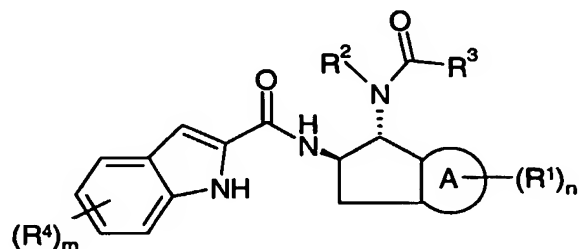
one of R² and R³ is selected from R_{NA}, and the other is selected from R_{NB};

20 R_{NA}: (1-3C)alkyl, halo(1-3C)alkyl, dihalo(1-3)alkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy(1-3C)alkyl, dihydroxy(2-3C)alkyl, cyano(1-3C)alkyl (optionally substituted on alkyl with hydroxy), methoxymethyl, ethoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, methoxymethoxymethyl, dimethoxyethyl, (hydroxy)(methoxy)ethyl, 5- and 6-membered acetals and mono- and di-methyl derivatives thereof, (amino)(hydroxy)(2-3C)alkyl, (aminocarbonyl)(hydroxy)(2-3C)alkyl, 25 (methylaminocarbonyl)(hydroxy)(2-3C)alkyl, (dimethylaminocarbonyl)(hydroxy)(2-3C)alkyl, (methylcarbonylamino)(hydroxy)(2-3C)alkyl, (methylS(O)_p)(hydroxy)(2-3C)alkyl (wherein p is 0, 1 or 2);

- R_{Nb} : (1-4C)alkyl, halo(1-4C)alkyl, dihalo(1-4C)alkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy(1-4C)alkyl, dihydroxy(2-4C)alkyl, trihydroxy(3-4C)alkyl, cyano(1-4C)alkyl (optionally substituted on alkyl with hydroxy), (1-4C)alkoxy(1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkoxy(1-4C)alkoxy(1-4C)alkyl, di[(1-4C)alkoxy](2-4C)alkyl, (hydroxy)[(1-4C)alkoxy](2-4C)alkyl, 5- and 6-membered acetals and mono- and di-methyl derivatives thereof, (amino)(hydroxy)(2-4C)alkyl, (aminocarbonyl)(hydroxy)(2-4C)alkyl, ((1-4C)alkylaminocarbonyl)(hydroxy)(2-4C)alkyl, (di(1-4C)alkylaminocarbonyl)(hydroxy)(2-4C)alkyl, ((1-4C)alkylcarbonylamino)(hydroxy)(2-4C)alkyl, ((1-4C)alkylS(O)_p)(hydroxy)(2-4C)alkyl (wherein p is 0, 1 or 2);
- 10 wherein any alkyl or alkoxy group within any group in R_{Na} and R_{Nb} may also optionally be substituted on an available carbon atom with a hydroxy group (provided that said carbon atom is not already substituted by a group linked by a heteroatom);
provided that if R^2 is (1-3C)alkyl or (1-4C)alkyl then R^3 is not (1-4C)alkyl or (1-3C)alkyl;
 R^4 is independently selected from halo, nitro, hydroxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, (1-4C)alkyl, (2-4C)alkenyl, (2-4C)alkynyl, (1-4C)alkoxy and (1-4C)alkanoyl;
- 15 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pro-drug thereof.
2. A compound of formula (1) as claimed in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pro-drug thereof, wherein R^2 is selected from R_{Na} , and R^3 is selected from R_{Nb} ,
20 wherein R_{Na} and R_{Nb} are as defined in Claim 1.
3. A compound of formula (1) as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pro-drug thereof, wherein A is phenylene.
- 25 4. A compound of formula (1) as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pro-drug thereof, wherein n is 0.
5. A compound of formula (1) as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pro-drug thereof, wherein m is 0 or 1.
- 30 6. A compound of formula (1) as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pro-drug thereof, wherein R^4 is methyl, chloro or fluoro.

7. A compound of formula (1) as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pro-drug thereof, wherein R_{Na} is selected from (1-4C)alkyl, hydroxy(1-4C)alkyl, and (1-4C)alkoxy(1-4C)alkyl.

5 8. A compound of formula (1) as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pro-drug thereof, which is a compound of formula (1A):



(1A)

wherein R^1 to R^4 , m and n are as defined in any one of claims 1 to 7.

10

9. A pro-drug of a compound of formula (1) as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8, which pro-drug is an in-vivo hydrolysable ester.

10. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of the formula (1), as
15 claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or in-vivo hydrolysable ester thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

11. A compound of the formula (1), as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or in-vivo hydrolysable ester thereof, for use in a method of treatment of a
20 warm-blooded animal such as man by therapy.

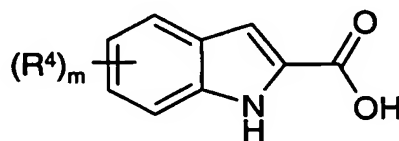
12. A compound of the formula (1), as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or in-vivo hydrolysable ester thereof, for use as a medicament.

25 13. A compound of the formula (1), as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof, for use as a medicament in the treatment of type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance, syndrome X, hyperinsulinaemia, hyperglucagonaemia, cardiac ischaemia or obesity in a warm-blooded animal such as man.

14. The use of a compound of the formula (1), as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or in-vivo hydrolysable ester thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance, syndrome X, hyperinsulinaemia, hyperglucagonaemia, cardiac ischaemia or obesity in a warm-blooded animal such as man.

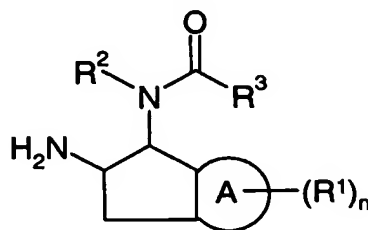
15. The use of a compound of the formula (1), as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or in-vivo hydrolysable ester thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of type 2 diabetes in a warm-blooded animal such as man.

16. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1) as claimed in claim 1, which process comprises:
reacting an acid of the formula (2):



(2)

or an activated derivative thereof; with an amine of formula (3):



(3)

and thereafter if necessary:

- i) converting a compound of the formula (1) into another compound of the formula (1);
- ii) removing any protecting groups;
- iii) forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester.